

**Special Meeting of Synod**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 9.30am by Zoom**

**Diocesan Prayer**

**Loving God, by your grace we long to see more people knowing Jesus, and more justice in your world. Help us to live as your disciples in the power of the Spirit and to work to your praise and glory. Amen**

**Present:** Rt Revd John Perumbalath (President, Bishop of Liverpool), Debra Walker (Chair of the House of Laity), Rev Canon Peter Dawkin (Chair of the House of Clergy), together with 59 members of Synod and **in attendance** 4 staff and 1 guest

**Apologies:** 17 members of Synod

**Absent:** 27 Members of Synod

Meeting commenced at 9.30am

<b>Item</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Action Point</b>
<b>CHAIR – Canon Debra Walker, Chair of the House of Laity</b>		
<b>DS23(14)</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction from Chair of House of Laity</b> The Chair (DW) welcomed all to this Special Meeting of Synod with a particular welcome to Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd John Perumbalath joining Synod for the first time since his Installation as Diocesan Bishop. Synod opened in prayer led by DW.	
<b>DS23(15)</b>	<b>Opening Remarks and Prayer</b> The President (+J) began his opening remarks by thanking all for their words of welcome on his appointment. +J commented that as he joins the Diocese on its journey, all of the work and mission of the Diocese brings us, we hope, to a place God has led us to, enabling mission and ministry in His name through local churches across the Diocese. As we journey together, asking questions, being open to answers and comments and especially as we hear today's presentations, we hold on to the belief in a God of abundance, not scarcity, and that the abundance is beyond material wealth, extending to an abundance of grace, hope and generosity. +J thanked Synod for prioritising attendance for this special meeting and for the listening to and praying for all we will hear today.	
<b>Update Items of Business</b>		
<b>DS23(16)</b>	<b>DBF Finance Update</b> DW introduced the item reminding Synod it is an update item with no Motions. There would be a short time for questions and comments following the presentation. DW invited ADNSF to present the item. ADNSF shared a detailed presentation "Financial Position of the Diocese May	



	<p><i>Michael Swinson, Liverpool South &amp; Childwall, three (3) Deaneries within Archdeaconry of Sefton and Knowsley have recalculated their parish/deanery share which has involved significant work. What we are not so good at is assisting a parish within our own deanery when that parish falls into arrears. We do need to encourage each other to be generous and to be good stewards. However the underfunding of Liverpool Diocese is the fundamental issue. ADNSF: Agree. Parish Share is not a bill but a contribution to our common responsibility to support mission and ministry across this Diocese, so what happens in one place affects us all. But the fundamental issue lies outside this Diocese. Notwithstanding there will be things we can do better, which we will be candid about, as we do not have the extra income stream from significant amounts of assets, we need to work harder. It is right we are good stewards and work hard but not that we have to work harder than others due to this historic low level of assets.</i></p> <p><i>Ann Hulbert, Ormskirk Deanery: We need to be clear what we mean by the term 'poor': is it defined spiritually, financially or by the area where you live? ADNSF: Quite rightly this has brought us to +J's opening remarks: not having material wealth is only part of our understanding of 'poverty' and its causes are multi-various. We have abundance in many things and lack of some things that are more important than money, which +J reminded us of, although we must resolve our financial position for this year and years to come.</i></p> <p>With no further comments or questions, DW thanked ADNSF for the presentation and Synod for their consideration, comments and questions. DW reminded all an email containing the presentation would be sent immediately with a wider mailing to church wardens, treasurers and clergy on Monday with all being able to access the presentation on the website.</p>	
<b>DS23(17)</b>	<p><b>Closing Blessing</b>  +J commended the helpful and clear presentation to Synod. +J closed the meeting in prayer committing the work of this Diocese and each individual to God in prayer and a blessing.</p>	

**2023 Diocesan Synod: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023**